

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****Patent and Trademark Office**Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/105,528	06/26/98	KNOWLES	N CR9-98-062

GREGORY M DOUDNIKOFF
IBM CORPORATION T81/062
PO BOX 12195
RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK NC 27709

LM01/0323

EXAMINER

LE,U

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2771

DATE MAILED:

03/23/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/105,528	KNOWLES, NICHOLAS JOLYAN STANIFORT	
	Examiner Uyen T Le	Art Unit 2771	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been:
 1. received.
 2. received in Application No. (Series Code / Serial Number) _____.
 3. received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. & 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 14) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 17) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 15) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 18) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 16) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. | 19) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 2771

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 16-20 are objected to because of the following informalities: it appears that claim 16 should depend on claim 15 instead of claim 8.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

2. Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by applicant's admitted prior art at pages 3-5.

Claim 1 merely recites well known components in any computing environment for a code to allow a visually-oriented technique for navigating an object model. Applicant admitted that the prior art has code for displaying a browser, retrieving elements of said browser, selecting one of said elements and retrieving and displaying relationship information from said model (see page 3, line 4-page 5, line 9, Figure 3C).

Claim 2 merely reads on the fact that once the user selects an element from the list presented, the pane to the immediate right is updated to show the next relationship (see page 4, line 21- page 5, line 9).

Art Unit: 2771

Regarding claim 7, the prior art clearly used a conventional browser (see Figure 3C).

Claims 8, 9, 14 correspond respectively to a system for the computer program product of claims 1, 2, 7, therefore are rejected for the same reasons stated in claims 1, 2, 7 above.

Claims 15, 16 correspond respectively to a method for the computer program product of claims 1, 2, therefore are rejected for the same reasons stated in claims 1, 2 above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 3-6, 10-13, 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art at pages 3-5, 25.

Regarding claims 3, 5, applicant admitted that techniques for performing action choices are well known in the art (see page 25, line 4). Since the browser is an interactive tool for developing an object model, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include a sub process for presenting an action list in order to allow the user to navigate through possible actions with each element.

Art Unit: 2771

Regarding claim 4, since each updated pane presents a different relationship information according to user's selection, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include in the action list actions tailored to said selected one or more relationships.

Regarding claim 6, official notice is taken that it is well known in the art to filter an action list to limit the choices appropriate to each model. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include filtering the action list while implementing the code in order to limit the actions appropriate to each model.

Claims 10-13, 17-20 correspond respectively to a system and method for the computer program product of claims 3-6, therefore are rejected for the same reasons stated in claims 3-6 above.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Nguyen et al (US 5,481,666) teach an object-oriented navigation system.

Kroenke et al (US 5,819,086) teach a computer system for creating semantic object models from existing relational database schemas.

IBM Corp. (WO 99/40505) teaches a computer system, method and user interface components for abstracting and accessing a body of knowledge.

Harada et al (US 6,018,344) teach a history display apparatus.

Shimamura (US 5,926,180) teaches a browsing unit and storage medium recording a

Art Unit: 2771

browsing program thereon.

Banning et al (US 5,721,901) teach a method and apparatus for displaying a dialog box enabling user selections from a database.

Henderson, Jr. et al (US 5,533,183) teach a user interface with multiple worspaces for sharing display system objects.

Agrawal et al (US 5,412,774) teach an apparatus and method for displaying a data item of a database using the display function of a selected data item.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Uyen Le whose telephone number is (703) 305-4134. The examiner can be reached on Monday through Thursday from 7:00am to 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Black can be reached on (703)305-9707.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington DC 20231

or faxed to: (703)308-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

or: (703)308-5403, (for informal or draft communications, please label PROPOSED or DRAFT)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Art Unit: 2771

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone is (703)305-3900.

UL

03/19/00

Thomas G. Black
THOMAS G. BLACK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
GROUP 2700